

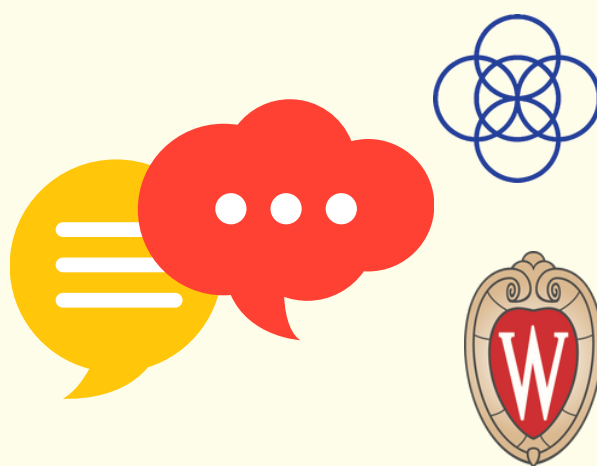
LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND BILINGUALISM LAB

NEWSLETTER**FALL 2025**

Welcome to the official LAB Lab Newsletter! We would like to start by thanking all of the families who have participated in our studies and continuously supported us. Continue reading to find out what we have been up to this Fall!

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(608) 263-5764



uwbilingualism@waisman.wisc.edu

1500 Highland Avenue
Madison, WI 53705<https://lab.csd.wisc.edu>

MEET OUR FALL 2025 TEAM!

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR



MARGARITA KAUSHANSKAYA

LAB MANAGER and SLP



DAVE CURTIS

LAB PSYCHOLOGIST



LUCIA STUBBS

RESEARCH SPECIALIST



CLARA MERKEL

DOCTORAL STUDENTS



EMMA LIBERSKY



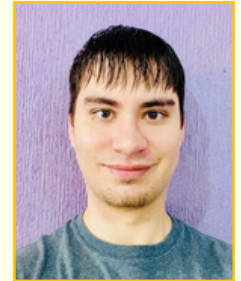
CAITLYN SLAWNY



EMILY BAGAN



CHENELLE WALKER



CHRISTOPHER PADILLA

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS



EVELYN ANTON



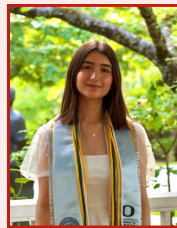
OLIVIA BERTHER



ABBY CUI



SARA DONOSO



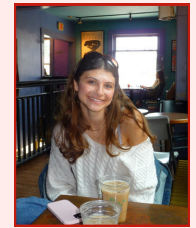
HANA DUSSAN



CARALYN FELCYN



PETER FISHMAN



LILY GISSAL



SOFIA GOLDENSTEIN



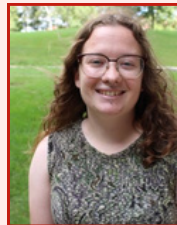
CHARLOTTE HALL



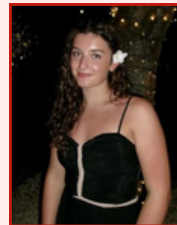
DECLAN HALLORAN



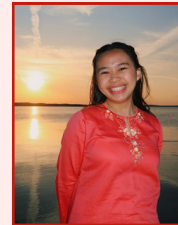
BHANU LAKSHMI HARIKUMAR



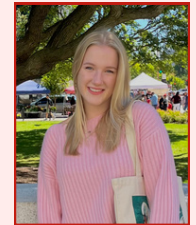
LUCY JUMBECK



YANA KRUTNYK



LEANNE LOW



KATE MOELLER



ZOE NICKCHEN



ANABELL RAMOS



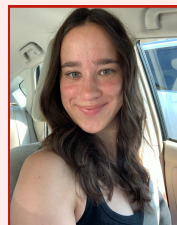
NORA SEVERSEN



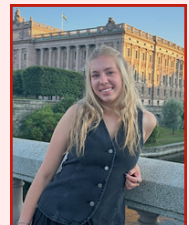
LEILA SKOULIKARIS



AMELIA TANG



JULIA TSAROVSKY



GABI WOLF

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

WISCONSIN EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION (WECA) CONFERENCE

Dave and Clara presented at the WECA annual conference in October on “*Bilingual Language Development in the Preschool Setting*.” The conference was held for hundreds of early childhood educators and program directors from around the state. In their presentation, they explored bilingualism and multilingualism in the classroom. They shared teaching strategies, reviewed language milestones, and explored when intervention may be helpful. It was great to connect with incredible educators around the state!



COMMUNITY TABLING

This fall, we tabled at a number of community events including Mercadito at Centro Hispano, Aventuras at the Children's Museum, and the Wisconsin Science Festival.

During these events, we shared information with the parents about research opportunities and language learning while their kids spun our prize wheel to win stickers, temporary tattoos, snacks, and coloring sheets. We had so much fun playing and coloring with the kids and getting to know more families in the community!



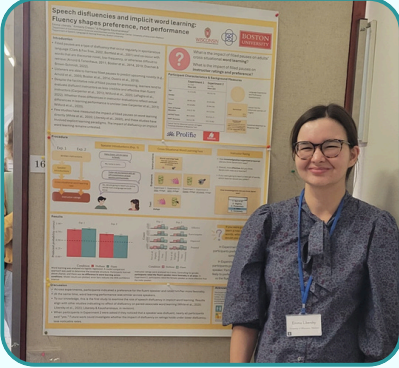
Yana stands next to our prize wheel at the Children's Museum!



Clara and Anabell color with children at Mercadito!

CONFERENCES

ARCHITECTURES AND MECHANISMS FOR LANGUAGE PROCESSING (AMLAP)



On September 4-6, Emma Libersky attended and presented at the AMLaP conference held in Prague, Czech Republic. She connected with fellow language processing experts and shared her research *"Speech disfluencies and implicit word learning: Fluency shapes preference, not performance."*

AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION (ASHA) CONVENTION

Emma Libersky, Emily Bagan, and Caitlyn Slawny presented at the ASHA Convention November 20-22.

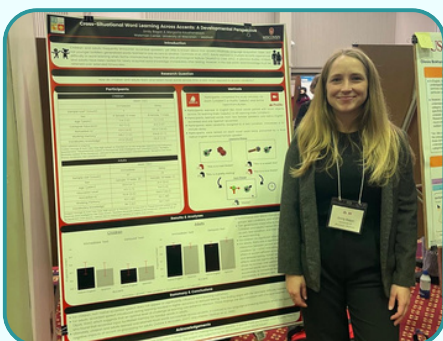
The ASHA Convention is one of the largest conferences in the field of communication sciences and disorders, bringing together thousands of researchers and clinicians.



Caitlyn was also a recipient of the ASHFoundation's 2025 New Century Scholars Doctoral Scholarship!



BOSTON UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT (BUCLD)



At BUCLD on November 6-9, Emily received the Paula Menyuk award and presented, *"Cross-situational word learning across accents: A developmental perspective."* At the conference, researchers presented on language acquisition, bilingualism, language disorders, and literacy, and they celebrated the 50th anniversary of the conference.

WAISMAN EVENTS

WILEY SEMINAR

During the academic year, the Waisman Center hosts a weekly Wiley Seminar, where researchers around the country are invited to present innovative developmental research. This semester's topics ranged from early brain and prenatal development to autism, language rehabilitation, and health outcomes across adulthood. It is a great opportunity for our lab members to learn about new research and connect our work in language development to broader questions in developmental and neurological science.



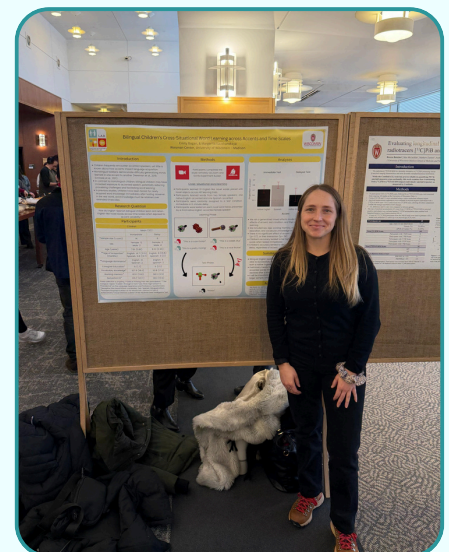
Members of the LAB Lab Team smile before the Wiley Seminar begins.



Dr. Kaushanskaya introduces Dr. Dresang's Wiley Seminar on Neuroplasticity in Aphasia.

WAISMAN POSTER FAIR

The Waisman Center hosts an annual poster fair, inviting Waisman researchers, clinicians, and outreach programs to present posters of their work. During this event, we learn about the current research and diverse services taking place within the Waisman center and the possibilities for collaboration across teams. This year, Emily Bagan presented her poster, *"Bilingual Children's Cross-Situational Word Learning across Accents and Time Scales."*



CONNECTING WITHIN THE LAB

LAB LAB FALL GATHERING

The LAB lab team hosted their fall gathering at Rennebohm Park. Over pizza and hot cider, we got to catch up with each other. After that, we played games, competed in cup stacking, and made bracelets.



LAB LAB JOURNAL CLUB

Every other week, LAB Lab members get together for our journal club where we discuss lab-relevant research on speech pathology and bilingualism.

This semester, we had a special author visit! Dr. Megan Gross, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, from University of Massachusetts Amherst joined virtually to answer questions about her article, *"Code-Switching During Narratives by Bilingual Children With and Without Developmental Language Disorder."*



A PARTICIPANT'S PERSPECTIVE

Participating in research as an undergraduate is a great way to become involved and contribute meaningful data to advance research at UW. This semester, we had many undergraduates participate in our research at the Waisman Center where they watched videos, learned new words, and answered questions about their language experiences.

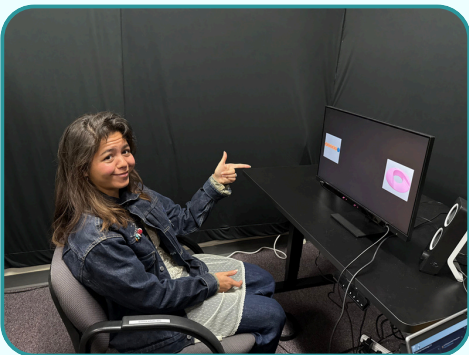


Our research assistants (RAs) facilitate the studies and walk students through every part of it. One of our RAs, Sara shared why she encourages undergraduates to participate:

"It's super beneficial for students to participate in research because it can really help experimenters get a better idea of how a certain process, like language, changes and develops over time. For our lab, having the involvement of both kids, university students, and adults can help us get a wide range of data with rich information that we can later analyze more in depth."



Coco, a speaker of English, Spanish, Tagalog, and French reflects on her experience:



What was it like to participate?

"It was a really lovely experience. It was my first time participating in a study like this but all the RAs were so kind and helpful. Would definitely participate in another study again!"

Did you learn anything from participating our study?

"Yes totally I learned a lot! I knew a bit about how language can shape our experiences and how we interact with the world but I didn't know the extent of it! I would love to hear more about the research this department is working on."

CURRENT RESEARCH

CHILD RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES!

We have a lot of studies going on this semester. We are recruiting **children ages 2-9 years** who speak English, Spanish, Russian, Mandarin, Tagalog, Ukrainian, and African American English. Learn about how your child understands and uses language!

If you are interested in participating, please email us or fill out our Interest Form [here](https://redcap.link/lablab), redcap.link/lablab, or scan the QR code.



ADULT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES!

We are recruiting adults ages 18-40 that speak any languages!

If you are interested in participating, please call (608) 263-5764 or email uwbilingualism@waisman.wisc.edu.



**WE HOPE TO SEE
YOU SOON!**

THANK YOU!



Thank you all for your continued support! We are excited to see what spring brings, and we hope to see you at events or within the lab!

As always feel free to reach out to us by email, uwbilingualism@waisman.wisc.edu, or phone, (608) 263-5764.